MINUTES
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
WAYNE GILLEY (OLD) CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 – 4:00 P.M.

I. Meeting called to order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Wayne Gilley City Hall Council Chambers (103 SW 4th St.) by Barry Ezerski, Traffic Commission Chairman. The meeting notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall (212 SW 9th St.) bulletin board as required by State law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barry Ezerski, David Means, Randy Somerlott and Todd Weatherly

ALSO PRESENT: Sagar Medisetty, Traffic Engineer, Officer Steve Martin, LPD and Jackie Somerlott, Traffic Commission Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Cole, Johnny Owens and SPC Alex Guess

II. Approval of minutes from previous meeting (June 21, 2012)

MOVED BY: Weatherly; **SECOND BY:** Means to accept the minutes as written.
AYE: Ezerski, Means, Somerlott and Weatherly; **NAY:** None.

III. Consent Item(s)

None

IV. New Business

1) Consider a request **(12-12)** from Carl Dentler, Deputy Public Works Director, City of Lawton to remove the designated school zone and the appurtenances for the Country Club Heights Elementary School that has been closed beginning this school year.

The Traffic Engineer explained that Country Club Heights School has been shut down by LPS beginning the 2012-2013 school year. Means asked if the school had sold and if the signals would be needed to which Ezerski replied, it was being used as a church and such school flashers, etc are not necessary.

MOVED BY: Means; **SECOND BY:** Somerlott to remove the designated school zone and the appurtenances for the Country Club Heights Elementary School that has been closed beginning this school year. **AYE:** Ezerski, Means, Somerlott and Weatherly; **NAY:** None.

2) Consider a request **(12-13)** from Jennifer Huber, 1416 NW Arlington Avenue to install STOP signs on eastbound and westbound NW Arlington Avenue at the intersection of NW 15th Street and NW Arlington Avenue making it a 4-way STOPS controlled intersection.

The Traffic Engineer explained that there are STOP signs posted for northbound and southbound NW 15th St at the intersection of NW Arlington Ave however there are trees and large plants on the southeast corner of the intersection which blocks sight visibility on the corner. This makes it unsafe for westbound traffic on NW Arlington to cross NW 15th St without stopping. Therefore staff recommends making this a 4-way STOP controlled intersection.

MOVED BY: Weatherly; **SECOND BY:** Somerlott to install STOP signs on eastbound and westbound NW Arlington Avenue at the intersection of NW 15th Street and NW Arlington Avenue making it a 4-way STOP controlled intersection.
AYE: Ezerski, Means, Somerlott and Weatherly; NAY**:** None.

3) Consider a request **(12-14)** from Georgia Peters, City of Lawton to install a "DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY" (R10-7) sign on southbound SW 4th Street near the City's parking lot driveway entrance in advance of the drive-thru for the City's payment counter.

The Traffic Engineer explained that on southbound SW 4th St. there is a drive through facility for citizens to go to Wayne Gilley City Hall to pay water/utility bill. On the 1st and 15th of the month the demand is very high for people to come into City Hall to pay bills. They back up and block the main driveway entrance to the parking lot just north of the building where the police cars are parked. Therefore the "DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY" sign is recommended so people become aware that they shouldn't block the driveway.

MOVED BY: Means; **SECOND BY:** Weatherly to install a "DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY" (R10-7) sign on southbound SW 4th Street near the City's parking lot driveway entrance in advance of the drive-thru for the City's payment counter.
AYE: Ezerski, Means, Somerlott and Weatherly; NAY**:** None.

4) Consider a request **(12-15)** from Dave Davidson, Lawton Fort Sill Tag Agency to install cross-hatched pavement markings near the front parking on SW "D" Avenue to prohibit drivers parking illegally in the unmarked parking spots.

The Traffic Engineer explained that at the Lawton Fort Sill Tag Agency (located at 29 SW "D" Ave. -- on the northeast corner of SW "D" Ave and SW 1st St.) there are 3 parking spots on SW "D" Ave in front of the building. The person who works at the agency reports that when the 3 parking spots are occupied, the people park to the east and to the west of the 3 spots. When they park to the west they are close to the crosswalk and the uniform vehicle code doesn't allow parking within 20 feet. When they park to the east they are blocking the entrance to the private parking lot. Either way they are illegally parked. Therefore staff recommends painting the hatched pavement marking so that parking in this area is discouraged.

Means asked if a DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY sign could be installed on the east where they drive into parking lot, behind the building, because it is obvious that it's a driveway. Medisetty said when entering, it's a one-way driveway. Martin asked if the driveway is blocked. Ezerski said instead of parking in the back parking lot they park on the side of the

street, in front of the driveway. Martin said this is illegal and that he will check into this. Ezerski said people park on the other side of the STOP sign. Medisetty said a sign will not be installed, but pavement markings/cross hatched marks will be installed to let them know it's not a parking spot. *[Medisetty pointed out the diagram of the proposed markings]* Martin said he agrees with the recommendation. Means said it is illegal and he knows People Park illegally. Ezerski also said it's difficult to determine where the parking stripes start and stop.

MOVED BY: Means; **SECOND BY:** Somerlott to install cross-hatched pavement markings near the front parking on SW "D" Avenue to prohibit drivers parking illegally in the unmarked parking spots.
AYE: Ezerski, Means, Somerlott and Weatherly; NAY**:** None.

5) Consider a request **(12-16)** from Jessica Hampton, 3502 E. Gore Blvd, Apt 6304 to reduce the speed limit on E Gore Boulevard between Flower Mound Road and E. 45th Street from 45 MPH to 40 MPH.

The Traffic Engineer explained that Gore Blvd is an arterial street and in this one mile section between Flower Mound and SE 45th St. the speed limit is 45 mph. West of Flower Mound to W 82nd St (city boundary), the speed is 40 mph. East of SE 45th St., Gore is a 2-lane minor arterial street posted at 35 mph. Traffic has increased considerably in recent years per ODOT counts (in 2008) the traffic was 15,200 vehicles per day. In 2011 the daily traffic was 15,850 per day. Also there is a lot of construction (new apartments) which has increased the traffic. There is a 20 mph school zone for MacArthur High School and traffic must reduce speed from 45 mph then to 40 mph then to 20 mph. So for these reasons -- the increase in traffic and the presence of the school zone, staff recommends that the speed limit on E Gore Blvd. for this section from Flower Mound Rd to SE 45th St. be reduced from 45 to 40 to be consistent with the entire remaining section of Gore Blvd. The previous Traffic Commission recommended in 2009 to reduce the speed limit on Gore between I-44 to Flower Mound for the same reasons -- increasing Cross Street traffic and traffic in general. Means asked if this was where the girl was hit recently and Medisetty said yes.

MOVED BY: Means; **SECOND BY:** Somerlott to reduce the speed limit on E Gore Boulevard between Flower Mound Road and E. 45th Street from 45 MPH to 40 MPH.
AYE: Ezerski, Means, Somerlott and Weatherly; NAY**:** None.

V. Other Discussion

Ezerski asked if there was any information on Starbucks. Medisetty explained that there was a meeting with the real estate representative and he made a recommendation that they could use the building adjacent to Starbuck's (to drive around). However they are not going to do anything on site to mitigate the problem. The DO NOT BLOCK TRAFFIC sign was installed on 48th St. and LPD is enforcing that sign. For a drive-thru facility, typically five (5) stacking spaces need to be provided from the order board. Starbucks only has three (3).

He said he spoke with the License & Permits division of the city to ensure this would not happen again. Ezerski said they placed blocks to prevent people from driving through and he doesn't understand what they are trying to accomplish but it makes the problem worse. Medisetty said he believes they are trying to keep people from coming out of the driveway. Ezerski said the fact 38th St. has opened has helped a little. Medisetty said perhaps issuing more tickets on 40th St. for stopping in the middle, would encourage people to take Cache Rd. to Starbucks instead of 40th St. Ezerski said cars come through Arby's parking lot and another car come around the opposite lane and almost crashed into each other coming out of the Arby's parking lot.

Martin mentioned the "buttons" on 67th St. and Cache having been removed when it snowed and they were removed by the snow plow. He said when you make a left turn to get into Whataburger and they end up in the intersection. He would like to buttons to be placed there. Means said Whataburger has a rear entrance and Martin said there are two entrances. He said north on 67th at the median, people are cutting across going southbound to get to Whataburger and shouldn't be turning in there. He said these two areas are bad. Martin said if the median were longer it would alleviate the problem. He said there had been a DO NOT ENTER SIGN there for northbound traffic. It is very dangerous.

Means asked about the east Gore lights at Apache Casino and if they are working well. Martin said he hasn't heard any complaints. Medisetty said the contractor needs to fix some signage.

Martin asked if Starbucks is considering building another facility and Medisetty said Starbuck's was considering building a second facility somewhere but are keeping the current location.

Ezerski asked Medisetty to check into a problem at 40th & Elm Ave.

VI. Audience Participation

None.

VII. Adjournment

4:25 p.m.

The City of Lawton encourages participation from all of its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, please notify the City Clerk at (580) 581-3305 at least 48 hours prior to the schedule meeting to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48 hour rule if signing interpreters for the deaf are not necessary.